

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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SUBJECT: PM GANDHI'S SPEECH BEFORE NAC PLENARY

REF: STATE 206705

1. IN HER AUGUST 17 ADDRESS AT THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. PRIME MINISTER GANDHI REITERATED MANY OF THE FAVORITE THEMES OF THE COLOMBO NAC: THE NEED FOR UNITY AMONG THE MEMBERS, VIGILANCE AGAINST OUTSIDE PRESSURES, THE NECESSITY THAT BILATERAL PROBLEMS BE RESOLVED IN BILATERAL FORA, THE NEED TO BREAK AWAY FROM THE COLONIAL LEGACY, AND AN EMPHASIS ON GLOBAL DETENTE, DISARMAMENT AND ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE. SHE ALSO MADE A BRIEF REFERENCE TO INDIA'S DESIRE THAT THE INDIAN OCEAN BE A ZONE OF PEACE.

2. MRS. GANDHI BEGAN HER SPEECH BY PRAISING NON--ALIGNMENT AS THE "BULWARK OF AN EVER -WIDENING AREA OF PEACE, A SHIELD AGAINST EXTERNAL PRESSURES AND A CATALYST OF A NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER." SHE NOTED WITH "PARTICULAR SATISFACTION" THE PRESENCE OF THE VIETNAM DELEGATION AND SAID "WE REJOICE
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IN THE HISTORIC VICTORY OF THE PEOPLES OF INDO-CHINA AND

IN THE REUNIFICATION OF VIETNAM."

3. VIGILANCE AGAINST EXTERNAL PRESSURES: MRS. GANDHI SAID THAT DESPITE THE END OF COLONIALISM AND THE COLD WAR, MANY MEMBERS OF THE NAM"REMAIN POLITICALLY VULNERABLE TO EXTERNAL PRESSURES. THE EFFORT TO UNDERMINE THE POWER OF NATIONALISM AND NATIONAL COHESION, TO DISCREDIT AND REMOVE LEADERS AND GOVERNMENTS WHO SYMBOLIZE INDEPENDENT THINKING AND SELF-RELIANCE, AND TO INSTALL MORE PLIABLE INDIVIDUALS AND PARTIES, IS UNABATED." SIMILARLY, SHE SAID, " ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION PERSISTS IN OLD AND NEW GARBS, AS DO TECHNOLOGICAL DISPARITIES AND PSYCHOLOGICAL COMPLEXES BRED BY COLONIALISM." NOTING THAT MILITARY PRESENCES ARE BEING EXTENDED, THE PRIME MINISTER STATED: " ALL COUNTRIES AROUND THE INDIAN OCEAN, WHO WISH THIS AREA TO BE A ZONE OF PEACE, ARE PERTURBED BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BASES AND INTRUSION OF RIVALRIES." SG SAID THATRECENTLY NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES HAD FACED A VARIETY OF PRESSURES: THEIR UNITED STAND AT THE U.N. AND OTHER INTERNATIONALFORUMS HAD BEEN ANGRILY CRITICIZED, AND THERE HAVE BEEN " ATTEMPTS AT THE DESTABILIZATION OF ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENTS, AMOUNTING EVEN TO SUBVERSION." SHE CALLED ON NAM LEADERS TO RESIST SUCH PRESSURES, SAYING: "NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES SHOULD STRONGLY REPUDIATE ANY EXTENSION OF OUTSIDE PRESENCES AND EXERTION

OF PRESSURE."

4. DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT: SHE WELCOMED THE "MANY MOVES TOWARD RAPPROACHMENT, WHICH ARE CUMULATIVELY DESCRIBED AS DETENTE," AND CALLED THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT A "WELCOME EVENT." SHE ADDED THAT DETENTE CANNOT BE EXTENDED TO OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD AS LONG AS THERE ARE "PROXY WARS AND COMPETITIVE INFILTRATION": "DETENTE SHOULD INCLUDE A RESPECT FOR NON-ALIGNMENT": BY OTHERS. IT CANNOT COEXIST WITH THE DESTABILIZATION OF NON-ALIGNED STATES." NOR CAN DETENTE SUCCEED WITHOUT A "SERIOUS EFFORT AT TOTAL DIS-ARMAMENT": "NEITHER BALANCE OF POWER NOR DETERRENCE BY TERROR OFFERS A LASTING SOLUTION."

5. BILATERAL PROBLEMS: NOTING THAT "EMERGING POLY-
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CENTRISM HAS GENERATED RIVALRIES NO LESS FIERCE THAN BIPOLAR CONFRONTATIONS," MRS. GANDHI WARNED THAT THE NAM MEMBERS,"SHOULD NOT ALLOW SUCH DIFFERENCES AS MAY EXIST BETWEEN SOME MEMBERS ON CERTAIN ISSUES TO AFFECT OUR UNITY... THE CONFERENCE IS TOO IMPORTANT TO SPEND TIME ON BILATERAL MATTERS." COMMENTING THAT "INDIA HAS ALWAYS REFRAINED FROM BRINGICG UP BILATERAL PROBLEMS IN THE NON-ALIGNED OR ANY INTERNATIONAL FORUMS," SHE COUNSELLED THAT "INTERNAL PROBLEMS

SHOULD BE DEALT WITH OR RESOLVED THROUGH PATIENT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, INSULATED FROM EXTERNAL COMPLICATIONS."

6. INTERDEPENDENCE: THE PRIME MINISTER CALLED UPON ALL NATIONS TO "EVOLVE A NEW EQUILIBRIUM OF EQUITABLE INTERDEPENDENCE IN WHICH THE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND ECONOMIC SELF-RELIANCE OF THE WEAKEST AND SMALLEST NATIONS ARE FULLY PROTECTED." SHE REMARKED THAT AT THE NAM "SHOULD PROMOTE GREATER ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND DISCOURAGE IDEAS OF ECONOMIC CONFRONTATION." UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, THE RESPONSE OF THE ADVANCED COUNTRIES SO FAR HAD BEEN "APATHETIC." MRS. GANDHI CALLED FOR A "GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE PLAN" TO RELATE RESOURCES TO HUMAN NEEDS AND PROVIDE AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM OF POTENTIAL IMBALANCES OR DISASTERS. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS NEW MORE EQUITABLE ORDER, POORER COUNTRIES DESERVE IMPROVED TERMS OF TRADE AND CREDIT, EASIER ACCESS TO MARKETS, AND A "MORE JUST RETURN" FOR THEIR RAW MATERIALS AND INDUSTRIAL GOODS. SHE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT IN ORDER TO "ENHANCE OUR STRENGTH IN THE DIALOGUE WITH THE ECONOMICALLY STRONGER," COOPERATION AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED IS ESSENTIAL: "IT IS NOW TIME TO POOL OUR RESOURCES AND OUR EXPERIENCE. THE FOCUS SHOULD BE ON THE RANGE OF FUNCTIONAL COOPERATION." ONE OF THE BEST EXAMPLES OF THIS EFFORT, SHE CONCLUDED, WAS THE CREATION OF A NON-ALIGNED NEWS AGENCIES POOL. SCHNEIDER

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